

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2049

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 5993

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EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, PN, OAS

SUBJ: TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STATE 225913

1. I HAD A FRANK AND FRUITFUL TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TACK THIS MORNING. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE WAS PERSUADED THAT PANAMA SHOULD SUPPORT ASIAN COUNTRIES RESOLUTION ON KHMER ISSUE IN UNGA (REPORTED SEPTTEL) AND PROVIDED A DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED HANDLING OF DOMINICAN TERRORISTS (ALSO SE TEL).

2. I DELIVERED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERSONAL LETTER TO THE MINISTER. HE READ IT AND EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE THAT SECRETARY HAD TAKEN TIME TO WRITE IN THIS WARM AND PERSONAL VEIN DESPITE HIS EXTREMELY HEAVY SCHEDULE.

3. HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S ARRIVAL ON OCTOBER 28 AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WOULD BE EXTREMELY REWARDING. HE THOUGHT THAT PAPERS ON JURISDICTION AND DEFENSE HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPROVED BUT SAID PANAMA WOULD HAVE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE. HE THEN SAID HE WAS THINKING ABOUT PROPOSING TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER A NEW AND BROADER APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC BUT
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IT WAS MY IMPRESSION HE HAD IN MIND TAKING SOME KIND

OF OVERALL CONCEPTUAL APPROACH CONCERNING THE BROAD
OUTLINE OF A FINAL TREATY.

4. ON THE QUITO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, I NOTED
THAT THE SECRETARY'S BUSY SCHEDULE OF TRAVEL AND PREVIOUS
COMMITMENTS IN A VARIETY OF CAPITALS WOULD PREVENT HIS
ATTENDING THE MFM SESSION IN ECUADOR. BUT I SAID US
DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE
OF SECRETARY. TACK SAID HE PLANNED TO ATTEND QUITO
SESSION BUT WOULD BE TAKING ONLY ONE DELEGATE WITH HIM,
PANAMA'S OAS AMBASSADOR PITY. THIS GAVE ME AN APPOR-
TUNITY TO MENTION PITY'S REMARKS

AT OAS COUNCIL MEETING
RECENTLY AND TO NOTE THAT THEY HAD RAISED QUESTION WHETHER
PANAMA INTENDED TO USE QUITO FORUM TO INTRODUCE ISSUES
OTHER THAN THE CENTRAL ONE OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA.
TACK SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT THAT WAS NOT AND NEVER HAD
BEEN PANAMA'S INTENTION. HE SAID AGENDA WAS CLEAR AND
THEY WOULD NOT BRING UP OTHER ISSUES.

5. I THEN RAISED VEXED QUESTION OF RECENT EFFORTS BY
PANAMANIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO INSIST THAT US
CITIZENS BORN IN CANAL ZONE HAVE PANAMANIAN PASSPORTS
IN ORDER TO EXIT FROM PANAMA. I SAID THIS MATTER HAD
CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AMONG SEVERAL HUNDRED
AMERICANS AFFECTED. THEY VERY RIGHTLY DID NOT WANT TO
GIVE UP US PASSPORTS IN ORDER TO GET PANAMANIAN PASS-
PORTS WHEN THEY WERE US CITIZENS AND SONS AND DAUGHTERS
OF US CITIZENS. I FELT THAT THIS ISSUE OUGHT PROPERLY
TO BE RESOLVED AS PART OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT ON JURIS-
DICTIONAL QUESTIONS. MOREOVER, I NOTED THAT IT WAS
CLEAR VIOLATION OF US-PANAMA AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES
AGREEMENT OF 1949 -- SPECIFICALLY OF ARTICLE XVII OF
THAT AGREEMENT. TACK SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR TO HIM THAT
INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED OUGHT TO BE REQUIRED TO HAVE ONLY
US DOCUMENTS AND BE ABLE TO EXIT THROUGH TOCUMEN ON THAT
BASIS. HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE MATTER UP TODAY WITH MINISTER
OF GOVERNMENT WHO HAS AUTHORITY OVER IMMIGRATION SERVICE.
I THANKED HIM.

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6. I THEN NOTED THAT THIS KIND OF QUESTION COULD PERHAPS
MOST EFFECTIVELY BE DEALT WITH IF WE REVIVED THE MEETINGS
OF THE SO-CALLED QUOTE MINI-PRC UNQUOTE -- CHAIRED BY
VICE MINISTER AND INCLUDING DCM AND REPRESENTATIVE OF
CANAL ZONE. HE AGREED -- AS HE HAD SOME MONTHS AGO--
AND PROMISED TO INSTRUCT VICE MINISTER OZORES TO GET
IN TOUCH WITH DCM IMMEDIATELY TO SET UP MEETING LATER
THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT. WE SHALL SEE.

7. I THEN MENTIONED THAT WORLD PEACE COUNCIL WAS CURRENTLY MEETING IN PANAMA. WONDERED IF FOREIGN MINISTER INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE GROUP AS I HAD HEARD MIGHT OCCUR. HE SAID HE HAD NO SUCH INTENTION. HE FELT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER TO TALK TO THIS KIND OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ASSEMBLAGE. I AGREED WITH HIS JUDGMENT.

8. I INFORMED MINISTER OF MY PLANS TO GO TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND MEETING OF PANAMA COMPANY BOARD. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO CALL ME IN THE NEXT WEEK FOR AN INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER. HE CLOSED SESSION, RATHER UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, BY THANKING ME FOR MANY WAYS IN WHICH I HAD BEEN WORKING TO IMPROVE US-PANAMA RELATIONS. IT MAY HAVE BEEN HIS WAY OF RECOGNIZING THAT SOME CHILL HAS EXISTED IN OUR RELATIONS SINCE CUBAN RECOGNITION AND DEMONSTRATION AGAINST EMBASSY, AND OF EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THAT WAS BEHIND US. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT TODAY'S SESSION DID MUCH TO MELT CONSIDERABLE ICE.

JORDEN

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